

eventually led to a decline in the industry by the early 19th century.

As the iron industry in the area waned, a decision in the last 1800's, to dam and merge the two lakes constituting Lake Hopatcong led to a rapid increase in tourism within the vicinity of Hopatcong. Due to the pleasant climate and proximity to New York City, the lake area soon became a major northeastern resort and began to experience high levels of prosperity. By the late 1800's Hopatcong was still part of Byram Township, one of three municipalities bordering the lake at that time. As many summer cottages were built in the surrounding towns, Hopatcong residents became increasingly dissatisfied with the pace of development in their own community.

After some debate, Hopatcong residents decided that officially separating from Byram would allow them to build new roads and make other necessary improvements near the Lake to attract tourists. In 1898, Hopatcong residents were finally granted the right to incorporate as an independent municipality, and the Borough soon developed into a popular resort community. Today, Hopatcong remains a vibrant residential area with a growing business community and a population of over 15,000 persons.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years, the Borough of Hopatcong has prospered as a community and continues to flourish today. By all accounts, it will continue to prosper in the future, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Hopatcong on this special anniversary year.

THE PASSING OF A DISTINGUISHED LEADER, PHILIP ROTELLA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of regret that I inform our colleagues of the passing of one of the most remarkable public servants my 20th Congressional District of New York has ever produced, Philip Rotella of Haverstraw, N.Y.

Phil Rotella first sought public office in 1946, being elected that year to the Board of Trustees of the Village of West Haverstraw. Two years later, in 1948, he sought election to the position of Town Justice of the Peace, and the then-President of the United States, Harry Truman, came to Haverstraw to campaign for Phil. He was successful in that 1948 contest and went on to serve as Justice of the Peace for 15 years.

On election day 1963, when John F. Kennedy was President, Phil Rotella was promoted by his voters to the office of Town Supervisor of the Town of Haverstraw. Phil was re-elected by the voters every two years continually until he voluntarily retired in 1997. During his tenure of 34 years as Town Supervisor, Phil Rotella was known for his skill in saving the taxpayer's dollars while providing superb town services.

Instead of issuing bonds which had to be repaid by future taxpayers, Phil Rotella squirreled money away, financing a new police and courthouse building in 1974, a new Town Hall and public library in 1981, and a new

highway garage in 1992 by his frugal fiscal policy.

Supervisor Rotella, throughout his 34 year tenure, earned a reputation for preserving parkland for future generations. He convinced our local utility company to donate a park to the townspeople in exchange for allowing them to construct a second power plant. He spearheaded the construction of one of the superb marinas on the entire Hudson River, and his town makes about \$250,000 a year from marina concession fees. In 1981, Phil successfully negotiated the purchase of Cheesecote Mountain Park from the State of New York for one dollar.

During most of his tenure as Town Supervisor, Phil Rotella also served in the additional capacity as a Rockland County Legislator, as is permissible in that county. In that position, he also fought to make certain that his Town received its due from the county government.

The closest Phil came to facing political defeat during his entire elective career of over 50 years was when, in 1983, the opposition was successful in removing Phil's entire political party from the November ballot due to a legal technicality. It is a remarkable tribute to Phil Rotella's incredible popularity that he was re-elected that year by receiving over 5,000 valid write in votes which in New York State are extremely difficult to validly cast.

Our region has truly lost a giant public servant in the passing of Phil Rotella. To his widow Marilyn, to his daughters Carolyn and Diane, to his sons John and Philip Jr., his three stepsons Jack, Edward and Arthur, his stepdaughter Esther, his 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren we extend our sincere condolences. Although mere words cannot assuage the grief of losing this remarkable man, it is hoped that his many loved ones will have the consolation that he was an outstanding public servant who will long be missed by so many of us.

IN HONOR OF HAROLD "BUD" LOVELL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold Lovell of Stratford, Connecticut on the occasion of tonight's testimonial dinner being held in his honor. As Harold, or "Bud" as he is affectionately known to his friends, is honored this evening, I would like to join his many well-wishers in paying tribute to a man who has spent his life enriching his community and serving others. Bud was born in 1910, raised in Stratford, and educated in Stratford schools. He then continued his studies at DePauw University and graduated in 1934. Bud began his career at the Bridgeport Post Publishing Company soon after graduating from DePauw. It was there that he honed his skills in writing and editing—skills he has used with great success ever since.

Bud left the Post Publishing Company and began his distinguished tenure as editor of the Stratford News. After a prestigious career with the News, Bud left journalism to run his family's business, the H.C. Lovell Hardware and Equipment Company—a Stratford institution since 1783.

Throughout his life, Bud has never strayed from his commitment to his community. He has dedicated countless hours to organizations such as the Stratford YMCA and the American Shakespeare Festival Theater, but his greatest pastime has been his membership in the Lions Club of Stratford. The most senior member of the club, Bud epitomizes the selfless commitment that is the very basis for the Lions. A member since 1956, Bud has served as President and Zone Chairman. He has won several awards in recognition of his good works, including the Melvin Jones Fellow award for his exceptional service to the blind.

A dedicated family man, Bud has been married to his wife Lulu Klein for almost half a century. It has been said that "the good that men do, lives after them," and the many good works of Bud Lovell will echo for generations in his home of Stratford, and beyond.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING KIMBERLY SECKINGER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kimberly Seckinger, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kimberly is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Kimberly is an exceptional student at Hillsdale High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Kimberly is a board member of the National Honor Society and Senior Class Secretary. Kimberly is also a member of the Varsity Golf Team. Outside of school Kimberly is involved with the PAC Camp as a Counselor and various other community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kimberly Seckinger for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR FENG SHAN HO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to